

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for automatically estimating the subjective quality of a signal carried over a transmission path and presented at a user interface comprising the steps of:

(a) at periodic intervals monitoring the transmission path used to carry said signal and at each of said monitoring intervals;

(b) determining the value of at least one impairment factor, creating a set of values for said impairment factor, and for each set of values for said impairment factor so obtained estimating [[the]] an effect of said impairment factor on [[the]] a subjective or perceptual quality of said signal to create an estimated effect;

(c) determining an estimated subjective quality of said signal by ~~combining~~ using the estimated effects of said impairment factor; and

(d) reducing [[the]] a value of a counter if said estimated subjective quality is below the value of said counter or increasing the value of said counter if said estimated subjective quality is above the value of said counter.

2. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 1 further characterized in that said signal is selected from the group consisting of digitized voice, digitized audio and digitized video signal.

3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1 further characterized in that one of said impairment factors is the response time between a request being sent from said user interface to a server and a response being received from said server.

4. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 2 further characterized in that said increasing in value of said counter is performed in increments which are a function of the difference between said estimated subjective quality determined at a present interval and the average value of said estimated subjective quality determined during at least one preceding interval.

5. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 3 further characterized in that said increasing in value of said counter is performed in increments which are a function of the difference between said estimated subjective quality determined at a present interval and the average value of said estimated subjective quality determined during at least one preceding interval.

6. (currently amended) A method for automatically estimating the subjective quality of a signal carried over a transmission path and presented at a user interface comprising the steps of:

(a) monitoring the transmission path used to carry said signal at periodic intervals and at each of said monitoring intervals, determining a value of at least one transmission impairment factor and a time reference and at each of said monitoring intervals, storing said values of said at least one impairment factor and said time reference in sets having members for later processing;

(b) retrieving said sets of stored values and for each set

(i) estimating ~~[[the]]~~ an effect that each member of said set has on ~~[[the]]~~ a subjective or perceptual quality of said signal;

(ii) determining an estimated subjective quality of said signal by ~~combining~~ using the estimated effects of each member of said set; and

(iii) reducing ~~[[the]]~~ a value of a counter if said estimated subjective quality is below the value of said counter or increasing the value of said counter if said estimated subjective quality is above the value of said counter.

7. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 6 further characterized in that said signal is selected from the group consisting of digitized voice, digitized audio and digitized video signal.

8. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 6 further characterized in that said impairment factor is the response time between a request being sent from said user interface to a server and a response being received from said server.

9. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 7 further characterized in that said increasing in value of said counter is performed in increments which are a function of the difference between said estimated subjective quality determined at a present interval and the average value of said estimated subjective quality determined during at least one preceding interval.

10. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 8 further characterized in that said increasing in value of said counter is performed in increments which are a function of the difference between said estimated subjective quality determined at a present interval and the average value of said estimated subjective quality determined during at least one preceding interval.

11. (currently amended) A method for automatically estimating the subjective quality of a signal comprising the steps of:

(a) periodically monitoring the transmission path used to carry said signal and determining the value of at least one transmission impairment factor, creating a set of values for said impairment factor, and for each set of values for said impairment factor so obtained estimating ~~[[the]]~~ an effect of said impairment factor on ~~[[the]]~~ a subjective or perceptual quality of said signal to create an estimated effect;

(b) determining an estimated subjective quality of said signal at each of said periodic monitoring times by ~~combining~~ using the estimated effects of said impairment factor;

(c) multiplying each of said estimated subjective effects by a factor which is a function of the time difference between said monitoring time and a reference time for which a weighted total subjective quality is being determined; and

(d) determining an estimated weighted total subjective quality by summing [[the]] a set of said subjective quality estimates.

12. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 11 further characterized in that said signal is selected from the group consisting of digitized voice, digitized audio and digitized video signal.

13. (previously presented) A method as defined in claim 11 further characterized in that said impairment factor is the response time between a request being sent from said user interface to a server and a response being received from said server.